

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 IO-10 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 L-02 SP-02 A-01 PC-01 AID-05 SY-05 DODE-00

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R 031250Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4440

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN VISA PROBLEM

REF: (A) PRETORIA #03 (B) MASERU 164

1. AMB AND DCM DISCUSSED VISA PROBLEM FEB 27 WITH SAG FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY BRAND FOURIE, WHO WAS SURPRISED WE STILL HAVING DIFFICULTY. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT AMERICANS WITH MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISAS WOULD BE ALLOWED WHATEVER LENGTH OF STAY THEY ASKED FOR (WITHIN REASON) WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION AS TO RACE. WE NOTED THAT DISCRIMINATION DOES INDEED SEEM HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED, APPARENTLY BY LIMITING ALL AMERICANS TO 72-HOUR STAYS WHEN THEY APPLY FOR OR PRESENT ONE-YEAR MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISAS FOR ENTRY FROM BLS COUNTRIES.

2. FOURIE SEEMED OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED AND SLIGHTLY PERPLEXED AT LEARNING OF PROCEDURE WHEREBY, AS WE UNDERSTOOD IT (PARA 2 REF A), AMERICANS IN BLS COUNTRIES WHO ALREADY HAVE MULTIPLE-ENTRY

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VISAS AND WHO WISH TO SPEND LONGER THAN 72 HOURS IN SOUTH

AFRICA MUST SUBMIT NEW APPLICATION SPECIFYING EXACT TIMES AND ITINERARY FOR DESIRED VISIT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN ANOTHER, SINGLE-ENTRY VISA PERMITTING STAY OF SPECIFIED DURATION ONLY. WE ARGUED THAT THIS VIOLATED THE AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISAS SINCE LATTER WERE NOT OF MUCH VALUE IF ALWAYS LIMITED TO 72 HOURS. WE NOTED GREAT INCONVENIENCES THAT WOULD BE CAUSED SHOULD USG BE PUT UNDER PRESSURES TO APPLY RECIPROCITY IN THIS REGARD.

3. FOURIE NOTED THERE WAS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VISA AND ENTRY PERMIT WHICH IS WHAT ONE RECEIVES WHEN ONE ACTUALLY ENTERS COUNTRY. HIS UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT ENTRY PERMIT CONTROLLED LENGTH OF STAY, USUALLY GIVEN FOR THE PERIOD REQUESTED BY VISITOR AT TIME OF ENTRY. WE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFERENCE AND OBSERVED USG ALSO DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN VISA AND LENGTH OF STAY GRANTED BY INS AT PORT OF ENTRY. WE SAID WE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE NO PROBLEM IF MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISA HOLDERS WERE GIVEN DIFFERENT LENGTH OF STAYS ACCORDING TO THEIR REQUEST AND NEEDS AT EACH TIME OF ENTRY, BUT WERE CONCERNED AT APPARENTLY PREDETERMINED, UNNECESSARILY BRIEF LIMITATION APPLIED TO AMERICANS IN BLS COUNTRIES, IN ADDITION TO OUR PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT APPARENT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AMERICANS ON GROUNDS OF RACE.

4. FOURIE SEEMED GENUINELY UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CONCERN ON BOTH COUNTS AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER AGAIN TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE. WE WILL FOLLOW UP IN NEXT WEEK OR SO. MEANWHILE, WE APPRECIATE BLS POSTS CONTINUING TO KEEP US INFORMED OF AMERICAN EXPERIENCE WITH SA VISAS.

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